# Mayo Clinic M.D.-Ph.D. Program Current Students *

## Junior MD Phase (M1 - M2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Research Interest</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria Astudillo Potes</td>
<td>University of Arizona</td>
<td>M1</td>
<td>Molecular mechanisms of neuropathy and drug development for the treatment of neuropathy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shreya Bellampalli, B.S.</td>
<td>University of Arizona</td>
<td>M2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caroline Doherty, B.S.</td>
<td>Georgetown University</td>
<td>M1</td>
<td>Cancer biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Jensen, B.S.</td>
<td>Oregon State University</td>
<td>M2</td>
<td>Pathology of the gut-brain axis after traumatic brain injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Le, B.S.</td>
<td>University of Texas at Austin</td>
<td>M1</td>
<td>Immunology and immunotherapy in the context of cancer treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Liseth, B.S.</td>
<td>University of Florida</td>
<td>M1</td>
<td>Immunology, immunotherapies, biomedical engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mihai Dumbrava</td>
<td></td>
<td>M1</td>
<td>Neurodegeneration and regenerative medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Marks</td>
<td></td>
<td>M2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kianna Nguyen, B.S.
University of Colorado-Boulder
M2

Research Interest: Engineering biomaterial platforms for regenerative medicine

Praveen Pallegar, B.S.
Stanford University
M1

Caitlin VanLith, B.S.
St. Olaf College
M2

Research Interest: Virology

Jessica Weng, B.S.
Rice University
M2

Research Interest: Antimicrobial resistance, microbial ecology, cancer immunotherapy, and cancer biology

Grace Yu, B.S.
McGill University
M1

Research Interest: Computational modelling and simulations of biomedical systems

Sherry Zhou, B.S.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
M1

Research Interest: Biochemistry of cancer development and early cancer detection
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Advisor</th>
<th>Research Interest</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Anderson, B.S.</td>
<td>University of Minnesota-Rochester</td>
<td>Molecular Pharmacology &amp; Experimental Therapeutics</td>
<td>Dr. David Daniels, Advisor</td>
<td>Development of novel chemical tools for the study and treatment of primary CNS neoplasms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sahej Bains, B.S.</td>
<td>Purdue University</td>
<td>Molecular Pharmacology &amp; Experimental Therapeutics</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Ackerman, Advisor</td>
<td>Developing Therapeutics for Long QT Syndrome Type 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitney Barham, B.S.</td>
<td>Rhodes College</td>
<td>Immunology</td>
<td>Dr. Haidong Dong</td>
<td>Research Interest: Tumor immunology: How to increase the cytotoxicity of T cells in response to PD-1 blockade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susanna Basappa, B.S.</td>
<td>University of San Francisco</td>
<td>Clinical &amp; Translational Science</td>
<td>Dr. Lila Rutten, Advisor</td>
<td>Research Interest: Variation in mode of detection for breast cancer by breast density and stage at diagnosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mylan Blomquist, B.S.</td>
<td>Arizona State University</td>
<td>Molecular Pharmacology &amp; Experimental Therapeutics</td>
<td>Dr. Nhan Tran, Advisor</td>
<td>Research Interest: Signal transduction in glioblastoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Choe</td>
<td>Concordia College</td>
<td>Immunology</td>
<td>Dr. Virginia Shapiro, Advisor</td>
<td>Research Interest: Leveraging sialic acid-siglec interactions to mitigate autoimmunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Dotzler, B.A.</td>
<td>Marshall University</td>
<td>Molecular Pharmacology &amp; Experimental Therapeutics</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Ackerman, Advisor</td>
<td>Research Interest: Development of KCNQ1 gene therapy for type 1 long QT syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armin Garmany, B.S.</td>
<td>Marshall University</td>
<td>Molecular Pharmacology &amp; Experimental Therapeutics</td>
<td>Dr. Andre Terzic, Advisor</td>
<td>Research Interest: Regenerative therapies in heart failure model</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ramin Garmany, B.S.
Marshall University
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Atta Behfar, Advisor
Research Interest: Investigating the role of genetics in congenital heart diseases

Abhinav Goyal, B.S. (Hon)
Columbia University
Biomedical Engineering & Physiology
Dr. Kendall Lee, Advisor
Research Interest: Artificial intelligence, neural engineering, neurosurgical devices

Ethan Grund, B.A.
Wesleyan University
Neuroscience
Dr. Charles Howe, Advisor
Research Interest: Neuroimmunology

Harvey Huang, B.S.A.
University of Pennsylvania
Research Interest: Cardiac implantable devices, electrophysiology mapping and ablation

Josiane Joseph, B.S.
University of Florida
Clinical & Translational Science
Dr. Jason Doles, Advisor
Research Interest: The influence of metabolic alterations on satellite cell function and muscle regeneration

Jake Kloeker, B.S.
University of Rochester
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Zhenkun Lou, Advisor
Research Interest: Genomic instability, chromosome segregation, and DNA repair

Christopher Livia, B.S.
Florida International University
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Atta Behfar, Advisor
Research Interest: Cell-Free Regenerative Interventions in Cardiac Ischemia

Arnaldo Mercado-Perez, B.S.
Johns Hopkins University
Biomedical Engineering & Physiology
Dr. Arthur Beyder, Advisor
Research Interest: Mechanisms of mechanotransduction in the GI tract
Dileep Monie, B.A.  
Harvard University  
Immunology  
Dr. Hu Li, Advisor  
Research Interest: Network Mechanisms and Bioengineering of Precision Regenerative Immunotherapies

Joseph Panos, B.S., M.S.  
Ohio State University  
Biomedical Engineering & Physiology  
Dr. Chris Evans, Advisor  
Research Interest: Treatment of long bone fracture and nonunion

Lindy Pence  
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Dr. Panos Anastasiadis, Advisor  
Research Interest: How cells adhere to neighboring cells and how this process is disrupted in disease states

Aaron Rusheen, B.S.  
University of Rochester  
Clinical & Translational Science  
Dr. Kendall Lee, Advisor  
Research Interest: Neurochemical biomarkers to improve treatment efficacy of deep brain stimulation, development of neural devices for ultra-high field image-guided surgery

Jonathan Scott, B.S.  
Washington State University  
Biomedical Engineering & Physiology  
Dr. Richard Ehman, Advisor  
Research Interest: Machine learning algorithms for mechanical property estimation in Magnetic Resonance Elastography

John Strikwerda  
Biomedical Engineering & Physiology  
Dr. Steven Sine, Advisor  

Skylar Rizzo, B.S.  
University of Florida  
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics  
Dr. Atta Behfar, Advisor  
Research Interest: Exosomes as a gene delivery platform

Taylor Trentadue, B.S.  
Duke University  
Biomedical Engineering & Physiology  
Dr. Kristin Zhao, Advisor  
Research Interest: Orthopedic biomechanics and musculoskeletal imaging
Kenneth Valles, B.S.  
University of Colorado

Clinical & Translational Science  
Dr. Lewis Roberts, Advisor

Research Interest:  
Epidemiological modeling of infectious origin cancers in migrant and refugee populations

Taylor Weiskittel, B.E.  
University of Tennessee  
M.S., University of Minnesota

Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics  
Dr. Hu Li, Advisor

Research Interest:  
Systems biology algorithms for understanding individualized disease and biotechnology engineering

Lincoln Wurtz, B.A.  
Ripon College

Research Interest:  
Neurology, neurodegeneration, and neuronal regeneration

Senior MD Phase (M3 - M4)

Hirotaka Ata, B.S.  
University of South Alabama  
M4  
Clinical and Translational Science  
Dr. Stephen Ekker, Advisor

Research Interest:  
Gene therapy and gene editing

Eugene Bah  
M4  
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics  
Dr. Steven Russell, Advisor

Joseph Barnett, B.S.  
Western Michigan University  
M3

Research Interest:  
Biological Psychiatry

Lucien Jay  
M3
Mark Li, B.S., M.A.
University of Toronto
MS3
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Atta Behfar, Advisor

Research Interest: Gene engineering approach for cardiopoiesis

Daniel Lindberg
MS3
Neuroscince
Dr. Doo-Sup Choi, Advisor

Justin Maroun, B.S.
Texas A&M
MS3
Virology & Gene Therapy
Dr. Steven Russell, Advisor

Research Interest: Oncolytic viruses: viruses that infect and kill tumors

Cordelia McGehee
MS3
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Scott Kaufmann, Advisor

Alex Roth, B.A.
Yale University
M.S., MPH, Boston University
MS3

Research Interest: Immuno-oncology

Matthew Schuelke, B.S.
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
MS4
Immunology
Dr. Richard Vile, Advisor

Research Interest: Immunotherapy and virotherapy for pediatric brainstem tumors

John Smestad, B.S.
Wheaton College
MS4
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Dr. L. James Maher, Advisor

Research Interest: Understanding succinate-induced global transcriptional and epigenetic reprogramming and identifying unique vulnerabilities intrinsic to SDH-deficient cells

Erin Triplet, B.S.
Creighton University
MS3
Neuroscience
Dr. Isobel Scarisbrick, Advisor

Research Interest: Therapeutic strategies to enhance regeneration in CNS damage and demyelination
Katelynn Wilton, B.S.
Clarkson University
MS4
Immunology
Dr. Daniel Billadeau, Advisor

Research Interest: Regulation of Natural Killer Cell-Mediated Cytotoxicity by the Enah/VASP protein Family; immunology, cellular signaling, molecular biology, immunodeficiency, pathology

*Student participation is voluntary*